

BROADWATER COUNTY



MONTANA

515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2013

Environmental Quality Council

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

SJ-15 Survey of Montana County Commissioners

Answers:

1. Current wildfire conditions on all lands – federal, state, county and private - pose a significant threat.
2. Fire hazard on all lands should be reduced to protect public health and safety.
3. More information is required to responsibly answer.
4. This issue is more complicated than eluded to here.
5. More information is required to responsibly answer.
6. More information is required to responsibly answer.
7. Current fuel loads and dry conditions could result in severe wildfires on all lands - federal, state, county and private lands.
8. A high intensity wildfire could impact wildlife on all lands – federal, state, county and private.
9. Noxious weeds and Bark Beetle are an issue on all lands within the County - federal, state, county and private.
10. Air Quality is affected by smoke originating from fires on all lands – federal, state, county and private.
11. More information is required to responsibly answer.
12. More information is required to responsibly answer.
13. More information is required to responsibly answer.
14. Yes and No, depending on your perspective, business, land use...
15. The Red and Dead need to be harvested and responsible land management needs to be followed. The Cabin Gulch Vegetation Project is responsible, was studied and vetted with professionals. One citizen or independent citizen group can too easily stop a responsible project with an envelope and a stamp. They cost

BROADWATER COUNTY



MONTANA

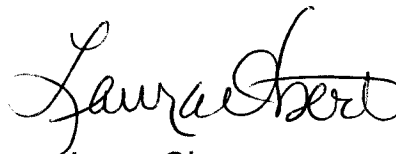
515 Broadway, Townsend, MT 59644

taxpayers a lot of money and hurt harvesting and management activities. A responsible plan needs to address this. (Forest Job and Recreation Act was a good start)

16. Depending on those changes- yes and no ...
17. Yes, when they are allowed to be pursued. The Cabin Gulch project would have benefited our county.
18. We are happy to work with anyone and have a strong record of doing so successfully.
19. There are always differences to worked out regarding land – federal, state, county and private.
20. Significant – refer to #15. Counties work well with the Forest Service and their desired plans – special interest groups are hurting our communities – they are the problem. Extremist views are destructive -
21. Our county works well with Federal agencies – the problem is the ability of a citizen, or group, to stop a vetted and studied project with only a stamp and no responsibility for the result.

Broadwater County Commissioners,

Elaine Graveley, Presiding Officer



Laura Obert



Franklin Slifka